MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) At present, there are no proposals under the consideration of Government for setting up of mini steel plants. Earlier, application were received for industrial licence for setting up of such steel plants in various States including one at Ghazipur District in U.P. However, under the new provisions, industrial licences for setting up such plants are no longer required except in certain restricted locations.

[English]

Modernisation of IISCO at Kulti

3878. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for modernisation of IISCO at Kulti; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Ban on Transfer of Fish Seeds

3879. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is ban on transfer of fish seeds from Orissa and West Bengal to Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reason therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to lift the ban as it is likely to affect the livelihood of fishermen in those states?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Vegetables and Fruits Production

3880. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK:
SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the vegetables and fruits produced during 1990-91; and

(b) the per acre consumption of different varieties of fertilizers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) As per the estimate from Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), total fruits and vegetables production for 1990-91 is 80 million tonnes.

(b) The per hectare consumption of different varieties of fertilizers i.e. nitrogen, phosphate and potash during 1989-90 was 17.29, 7.06 and 2.74 kgs respectively in the country.

[Translation]

Scheme for Checking Soil Erosion in Bihar

3881. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme for checking the soil erosion caused by the river Ganga in Begusarai district of Bihar is pending with the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) Comments on the scheme for checking bank erosion near Chak village of Begusarai district costing about Rs. 160 lakhs received from State Government in April 1991 were sent in May 1991. Replies to the comments sent have not been received so far. The concurrence of the scheme will be given after modifications have been carried out and a communication is received from the State Government.

[English]

Supply of Low Ash Content Coal to Steel Plants of SAIL

3882. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT
SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) has recommended for use of 30 to 50 per cent low ash content coal in the integrated steel plants of SAIL;

(b) the quantity of such coal imported by SAIL and the amount spent on it during the last three years; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to make available sufficient quantity of indigenous low ash content coal to SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices has recommended use of 50% imported low ash coal in blend in SAIL plants instead of 10-30% use prevailing in 1987-88/ 1989-90. It has also recommended increase in use of imported coal in blend from 30-50%, as a post-modernisation measure in SAIL plants, for increasing efficiency and productivity.

(b) Quantity and approximate C&F value of 'Low Ash Metallurgical Coking Coal' imported by SAIL during the last three years are as follows:-

Year	*Quantity (Million tonnes)*	*Approx. C&F value (in Rupees)*
1988-89	3.740	329.2 crores
1989-90	3.748	426.8 crores
1990-91	4.493	543.8 crores

(c) Every year all the quantities of coking coal indigenously produced are consumed in the steel sector; imports being resorted to meet only the balance requirement both in quantitative and qualitative terms. Efforts are constantly made to augment the production and washing of the raw coking coal indigenously. Government closely monitors the production of raw coking coal, washed coal and timely despatches to the plants with a view to ensuring that supplies are effected as planned.

Economic sanctions against South Africa

3883. SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that apartheid policy is still being followed in South Africa despite the formal abolition of the 'Pillars of apartheid' in that country;

(b) whether the Government propose to raise this issue at the international level so as to prevent withdrawal of economic sanctions against South Africa;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have taken note of the protest by the African National Congress over the lifting of economic sanctions by the US against South Africa; and

(e) if so, reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) At the forthcoming meeting of the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa to be held in New Delhi in September 1991, the Government intends to take the stand that it would be premature to lift economic sanctions at this stage and to act in concert with the ANC to clearly spell out conditions under which that can be done.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Government is in sympathy with the African National Congress, which considers the lifting of economic sanctions by the US against South Africa as premature.

Illegal Mining

3884. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal mining of different mines is on constant increase; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Sporadic instances of illegal mining of some minerals do come to notice from time to time. As and when instances of illegal mining come to notice, appropriate measures are taken by the State Governments.

Waiting list for New Telephone Connections in Agra

3885. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state: